

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

October 27, 2011

Minutes of the Economic Development Commission held at 8:15 A.M., on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

Members Present: Todd DePino, Walter Mann, Radha Prasad, Richard LoPresti; Frank Maher, Deborah Moore, First Selectman Freda, Stephen F. Darley

Members Absent: William Gambardella

MINUTES

Chairman LoPresti opened the meeting with a discussion of the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on September 22, 2011. Mr. Prasad moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Maher.

VOTE:	Mann - Yes	DePino - Yes	LoPresti -Yes
	Maher - Yes	Freda - Yes	Prasad – Yes
	Moore - Yes		

SHOW AND SELL – LESSONS LEARNED

Ms. Valerie Goodkin of the Selectman's Office, said that there were approximately 91 vendors in attendance at the Show and Sell. We were at full capacity since the gym holds about 95 tables. She said that we had about a dozen more vendors than last year.

Ms. Goodkin said that we need to get more sponsors. This year we only had nine (9) event sponsors at \$400 each for a total of \$3,800. Our expenses for this year's event totaled around \$4,800. We will have an account balance going forward of about \$1,300.

Ms. Goodkin said that this year the food vendors and entertainment were moved into the lobby of the high school to left of the gym. This proved to be very successful. The inclusion of activities for the children and the daycare were nice additions.

Ms. Goodkin said that there is limited access to electricity and that they had numerous extension cords running across the gym floor. She said that this could be an issue for future Show & Sells.

Ms. Goodkin said that thank you letters were sent out to the event sponsors and that she is also sending out a survey via email to all participants. Results will be available at our next meeting.

Mr. Freda thanked Ms. Goodkin and Mr. Mann for all their hard work and said that it is a very time consuming event.

Mr. Maher suggested that a list of duties be prepared for the next Show and Sell and then be assigned to commission members.

COMMISSION UPDATE

Mr. Maher reviewed the economic development book from the Town of Hebron. He said that overall he thought it was too large and the maps were very small and unreadable. He said the if we decided to go this route, it should show success stories of businesses in Town and our proximity to New York, Boston, New Haven.

Mr. LoPresti said that the Blight Ordinance is in place.

Mr. LoPresti has scheduled a meeting for Monday, October 31st at 9:30 AM in the Selectman's office for a brainstorming session on the Economic Development website. Ms. Goodkin will be creating the website for the Town and a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Mann, Mr. Prasad and Mr. Darley will work with Ms. Goodkin on the implementation of this website.

FREDA UPDATE

Mr. Freda said that two developers will be meeting with Quinnipiac University to discuss student housing on northern Washington Avenue. The construction of apartments/townhouses would be out of the residential area of Town. If Quinnipiac endorses the project, a zoning change will be required.

Mr. Freda said that he met with Mickey Rabina last week and they are working on another concept.

Mr. Freda said that although the State rejected the Yale Medical Center project, Yale will be reapplying and will be here in some form.

Mr. Freda said that the lease agreement still has not been signed at 297 State Street.

Mr. Freda has met with Covidien and the company will be expanding in North Haven this spring.

Mr. Freda said that the owner of the old 95 House on State Street is in negotiations with a possible buyer.

Further discussion followed.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 17, 2011, at 8:15 a.m.

There being no further business before the Commission Mr. Darley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 AM, seconded by Mr. Prasad.